

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims 2-6. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to improve their form. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in lacking antecedent basis for "the hose pack." In response, Applicants have, *inter alia*, amended claim 4 to improve its form, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bosna U.S. Patent No. 4,539,465* in view of *Rigdon et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,066,833*. The remaining claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bosna* and *Rigdon et al.* and further in view of *Benfield U.S. Patent No. 3,594,534*.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in claim 6, Applicants' invention provides a welding wire storage device for a welding system including a housing having a free space, a first end region and a second end

region opposite the first end region, a wire core surrounding a welding wire arcuately arranged to lie freely in the free space of the housing, the wire core having a first end fixed in the first end region of the housing, a measuring device for detecting deflection of the wire core, a guide element on the second end region displaceably mounting the wire core, a wire guide hose for the wire core, and first and second coupling mechanisms arranged on the housing for connection with the wire guide hose.

Applicants' previous Amendment filed February 1, 2010 discussed in detail the differences between Applicants' welding wire storage device as recited in claim 6 and *Bosna and Rigdon et al.* For example, *Bosna* fails to show a wire buffer being arranged between the welding apparatus and the welding torch within a housing, with the wire core being arcuately arranged to lie freely in a free space of the housing as shown, for example, in FIG. 2 of Applicants' disclosure.

Rigdon et al. fails to show a wire buffer including a housing and an arcuately arranged wire core surrounding the welding wire lying freely in a free space of the housing as recited in Applicants' claim 6. The loop 509a shown in FIG. 27 of *Rigdon et al.* shows no wire core such as is shown in

Applicants' FIGS. 4-7. If the loop of the welding wire illustrated in FIG. 27 of *Rigdon et al.* were to be considered as a wire buffer, then the wire buffer would be arranged behind the welding wire spool. In contrast, with Applicants' welding wire storage device for a welding system, the wire buffer 40 is arranged between the welding apparatus 1 and the welding torch 10 as can be seen from FIG. 2 of Applicants' disclosure.

The newly-cited reference *Benfield* simply shows a welding apparatus with a rotatably mounted welding torch. Within the arc shaped welding torch, there is no welding wire buffer which enables temporary storage of small amounts of welding wire during a transportation of the welding wire in a reversed direction.

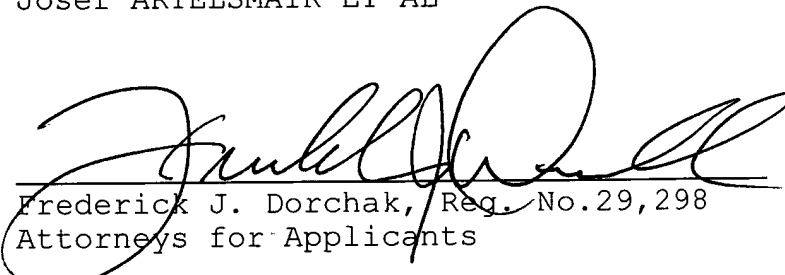
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6, together with claims 2-5 which depend thereon, are patentable over the cited references whether considered alone or in combination.

Applicants would also like to advise the Examiner that corresponding patents have been granted in Austria, China, Europe and Japan.

In summary, claims 4 and 5 have been amended. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the final action and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Josef ARTELSMAIR ET AL

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802



Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No. 29,298
Attorneys for Applicants

FJD:cmp

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Kelly Espitia